



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Madison-based Army Guard helicopter unit is latest called to active duty**

Most members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation will be ordered to active duty next weekend for an initial period of up to one year.

About 200 members of the Madison-based unit's approximately 250 soldiers will be affected by the mobilization order received Sunday. The soldiers will mobilize at the unit's Madison armory on Feb. 2 and remain there for several days before moving to their mobilization station at Fort McCoy, Wis. Wisconsin Guard officials expect the unit will eventually deploy overseas.

The unit's normal mission is to provide general aviation support using UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. These utility aircraft are capable of transporting troops, carrying cargo and serving as airborne command and control platforms. Only about half of the Madison unit's 14 UH-60 helicopters will be part of the mobilization and deployment.

The activation is part of the partial mobilization of the Guard and Reserve ordered by President Bush in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. More than 99,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel nationwide are presently serving on active duty under the partial mobilization, supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (overseas U.S. military operations to combat terrorism) and NOBLE EAGLE (homeland defense and security operations in the continental United States).

This will be the 18th Wisconsin National Guard mobilization since the end of the Gulf War in 1991, when more than 1,400 Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard personnel from nine units were mobilized.

Mobilization of these soldiers will bring the total number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen currently on active duty to about 950. In addition to the 147th Aviation battalion, there are currently five Army National Guard units, one Army Guard air base security task force, and three Air Guard units on active duty. More than 1,650 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen will have served on active duty during the past 16 months.

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